App. F. IX-4

Previous References
94 C. 412-29-1,2

1930.31
P. P.

File No. 117-30
Serial Nos. 102

Later References

P. 15

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Serial

Part B for April 1931

SUBJECT.

Freedom of Association
of Industrial Workers

General and Revenue Secretariat | File No. of 193 37j

Serial No.

From the Secy to the Resident
Letter No C 8876/73 of 30 d 9.8.31
Refers to Mr Rama Rao's letter No PR
1287 d 31.5.30 furnishing information
for answering
a question in the House of Commons
re restrictions on association for
missionary purposes & invites
refers to the apparent inconsistency
in the reply sent in letter
No PR 532 d 19.11.30 & requests
to explain the position & send an
early reply

The y.c file 412-29 containing the
letter d 31.5.30 refd to is put
up.

2 The other letter issued is
in connection with the prohibitory
order passed re Mr V.V. Giri
when he came to Mysore this
file was sent to the Rly
Secretariat after issue
If Addl the Rly Secrett will be
requested - unofficially to send
all the papers leading to
said letter

Subd (2) A telephone message may be sent asking for all the

NOTE—Contn. Sheet.

1/3/31 (4) Yes 14/3/31

WD 2553—GPB—50,000—8-7-30

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
4 MAR 1931

3179

File No. of 193 General and Revenue Secretariat

(1) The file of papers re Mr V.V. Giri are sent up

(2) Kind reference is invited to the letter in question (para 2) issued from C.S

(3) It will be seen that Mr N. Rama Rao's letter relates to Industrial Association in General, while the other relates to Association of Govt servants

Flag A.

G

The latter class is perhaps governed by the Govt Servants Conduct Rules, & as such there is no discrepancy between the Statements made in the two Communications. Subject to orders.

by 17/3

(4) The Mysore Railway servants Associations (though they may come under the category of Associations for Industrial purposes are not free from the restrictions incidental to Service Associations

C&A 17/3 (5) The Ry. ~~Employees~~ in Mysore is owned by the State, and its employees are all Govt. Servants. As such the rules relating to the ventilation of their grievances are those relating to similar Govt. service Associations - so far as industrial associations pure

+ ~~though~~ it is not merely an industrial concern, as a concern for the maintenance of inter-railway service vide para 2 of the C.R. Secy's letter dt 19th Oct 32

Serial No.

& Rangpur owned by private Cos or individuals are concerned no restrictions have been imposed by Govt: to consider their grievances or to recognised associations of their servants (not strangers other than servants & hence there is a strength even in Ry assns as he is not a servant of the Company for proper purposes

There is therefore no contradiction in the statements contained in the 2 letters referred to in the letter under reply A & reply may perhaps be sent on the above lines

Ry
17/3/31

Ch Secy.)

(10) Please put up Public servants conduct Rules (British India & Mysore) as regards the right of association of Govt servants

mm
19/3/31

Ry 19/3/31

CHIEF SECRETARIAT
17 MAR 1931

Note—Contn. Sheet

WD 02328—GPB—10,000—22-4-30

Serial No.

Subd.

(11) The only one of the first is Paragraph 11 that of the Public Service in the matter is not 2

19/3/31 (12) Subd- The proviso to Para 5 Page 115 mention is made of recognised assn of Govt. Service formed in accordance with such rules as may from time to time be framed in this behalf by the Governor General in Council. I have not been able to lay my hands on The rules framed in this behalf by the G.G. in Council. The Mysore rules on the subject are submitted herewith. There does not appear to be any discrepancy between the two provisions. The one relates to private assn & The other to assn of Govt servants

Ray 23/3/31.

Chief Secy)

(13) Subd with a draft for Executive Council

Nett 23/3/31

Secy not Member Revenue

Through Law Secy

(15) 30/3/31

(16) Issued & returned

Nett 30/3/31

Note–Contn. Sheet

General and Revenue Secretariat | File No. of 193

Serial No.

To The Secy to the Resident
No Pol 971 D 31.3.31
States that in view of the
Observations made there is no
discrepancy as the first Communication
relates to associations in general
for industrial purposes & the latter
refers to a code of discipline
applicable to workers & civil servants
employed by Govt.

(14) Issued & resubd, (as drafted by Chief Secy in para 16 above)

hy...
31/3/31
Chief Secy

Chief Secy

Rec
31/3/31

To the Dep Secy with compliments
for perusal

Rec
31/3/31

Thanks

Ch. Secy
with compliments

4 4 31

Submitted
If approved, the Govt note will be returned, retaining the CS files here

hy
7/4

NOTE—Contn. Sheet.

SECRETARY
31 MAR 1931

WD 02553—G PB—50,000—8-7 30

CS 3179

CONFIDENTIAL

No.C/8876/73 of 1930

PP 117-30-1

From

Captain G Kirkbride,

Secretary to the Resident in Mysore.

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Mysore,

Bangalore.

Bangalore, dated 9th March 1931.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to Mr. Rama Rac's letter No.Pol.1287 dated the 31st May 1931, in which it is stated in reply to an enquiry for certain information for answering a question in the House of Commons, that there are no restrictions regarding association for industrial purposes in the State; and also to the second paragraph of Mr. Ranga Rao's letter No.Pol.532 dated the 19th November 1930 in which it is stated that the Government of Mysore are always ready to consider grievances and to recognise associations of their servants for proper purposes, but that it is their distinct policy to refuse to recognise any such associations which have among their office bearers persons who are not in the service of Government. The Government of India feel some difficulty in reconciling this apparent inconsistency in particular as it is understood that there are industrial concerns under the control of the Government of Mysore.

I am to ask you kindly to explain the position and also kindly to furnish an early reply as the Government of India have made the enquiry by telegram.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

SECRETARY TO THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.

CP 3240

IMMEDIATE.
CONFIDENTIAL

No.C/8906/73 of 1930

From

Captain G. Kirkbride,

Secretary to the Resident in Mysore.

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government o

Mysore, Bangalore.

Dated, Bangalore 20th March 1931.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to my predecessor's letter No.C/8876/73 of 1930 dated the 9th March 1931, in which it was stated that the Government of India feel some difficulty in reconciling the apparent inconsistency contained in the statement of Mr. Rama Rao's letter No. Pol.1287 dated the 31st May 1931, and the second paragraph of Mr. Ranga Rao's letter No.Pol.532 dated the 19th November 1930.

I am to ask you kindly to explain the position at a very early date as the Government of India have made a second enquiry by telegram.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

SECRETARY TO THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.

Telephone message read by the Agent

Telephone Message.

From

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Mysore,
Bangalore.

To

The Secretary to Government, Railway Department,
Mysore.

Please send the entire file of papers regarding Mr. V. V. Giri, including those sent to you on 25th November 1930 with C. 153 of 30-31.

In chief

No 3601/P.P dt 14/3/31
Post copy

CONFIDENTIAL. GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE

General and Revenue Secretariat

Dated, Bangalore, 19th November 1930.

No. Pol. 532.

From

The Chief Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

To

Major G. Loch, I.A.,
Secretary to the Hon'ble
the Resident in Mysore, Bangalore.

Sir,

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. C. 8192/73 of 1930, dated the 3rd September 1930, with which you have forwarded certain correspondence relating to a complaint on the part of the International Transport Workers' Federation regarding the treatment accorded by the Mysore Government to Mr. V.V. Giri and to send you the following statement of the facts connected with that matter.

The Mysore Railways are the property of the Government. They are not only an essential service, but form a very important part of the internal security scheme. The Railway workers are all Government servants. The Government are always ready to consider grievances and to recognise associations of their servants for proper purposes, but it is their distinct policy to refuse to recognise any such associations which have among their office bearers persons who are not in the service of the Government.

The Mysore Railways Employees' Union is well aware of this. Out of the eleven office bearers only three Secretaries are men in Railway Service. The majority of the remainder are Congress politicians whose attitude towards the Government is one of chronic hostility.

About December 1929 Mr. Giri came down to Mysore and joined the Executive in the capacity of a President. From that time

there began a campaign of sensational and misleading appeals to the employees. Strong pressure was brought to bear on those who were not desirous of becoming members of the Union. Insubordination and defiance of authority became frequent, and there was much talk of the organisation of a strike at a critical time as the best means of enforcing demands.

The early part of 1930 was a time of much disturbance and anxiety all over India. For instance, there were railway strikes upon the Great Indian Peninsular and His Exalted Highness the Nizam's State Railways, and Mysore which has been exceptionally free from labour troubles, suffered from a grievous strike in the Kolar Gold Fields. In February 1930 Mr. Giri wrote to the Agent that he proposed visiting Mysore shortly and would like to meet him. The Agent courteously replied in a private letter that he would be glad to see him when he came to Mysore. It has been suggested that Mr. Giri was invited to come and present the grievances of the labourers to the Agent. It will be obvious that this was not the case. So far as the Government are aware, there were no general grievances to present. Mr. Giri came down in April to discover them, and what he ultimately presented was a set of claims which can only be described as preposterous. He proposed to apply to the Mysore Railways every decision that had been arrived at on every labour question that had been fought out on any Railway in India without regard to the question whether the grievances that had led to those decisions existed in Mysore or whether the conditions were in any waysimilar.

Mr. Giri declares that he is in favour of peace in industry The tone of his circularsand addresses suggests that he is in favour of peace on his own terms, but he has made a very strong point on more than one occasion of his intention of resorting to direct action in case, in his own words, "the negotiations failed to secure all that he wanted for the amelioration of the conditio

of the railway employees." He enforced this statement in a speech at Bangalore on the 11th May 1930 by saying that he had at his back seven lakhs of railway workmen in British India who would any day be prepared to stand by the Mysore employees, and that, if necessity arose, the combination would paralyse the Mysore railway administration.

These were the conditions existing when Mr. Giri made his visit to Mysore and the Government's anticipations of the result of such a visit were what were to be expected from a gentleman who held out such threats as have been above indicated. The time chosen was a critical one, namely, a time at which there isa very learge increase of railway traffic in connection with the festivities arising on the occasion of His Highness the maharaja's Birthday. That the danger of a strike was not imaginary may be gathered from the fact that the Government of India were good enough to send the warning which was communicated with D.O. letter No.C/7814/90 of 1930, dated the 22nd May 1930, from the Hon'ble the Resident. The District authorities held that they could not be responsible for the peace of the district if there were permitted to come into Mysore a gentleman capable of threatening direct action for the enforcement of demands for the redress of grievances which he had yet to discover, and they gave Mr.Giri due warning that he would not be allowed to proceed to the Capital for the purpose he had in mind. He proceeded in spite of it, and an order under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code was served upon him.

The Government feel that this order was entirely justified and they trust that this statement of the actual facts will remove from the mind of the Executive of the International Transport Workers' Federation the impression they have received that the issue of the Magistrate's order was in any way due to

a desire to hamper legitimate trade union activities.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd/- R.Ranga Rao,

Chief Secretary to Government.

Confidential. Pol. 971 & 31/3/31
PP 117-30-2

To

The Secretary to the Hon'ble
The Resident in Mysore.

....

~~Subject.~~ -

Freedom of Association of Industrial Workers.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. C. 8876/73 of 1930 dated 9th March 1931, I am directed to state that Mr. Rama Rao's letter, No. Pol.1287 dated 31st May 1930, dealt with a general inquiry as to whether freedom of association existed in Mysore for industrial purposes. There being no law in Mysore restricting such association so long, of course as its objects were lawful, the inquiry was ~~answered~~ in the affirmative. At the same time it ~~can be~~ was pointed out that no legislation regarding Trade Unions had yet been introduced in Mysore though it was under contemplation.

The second communication quoted by you (Mr Ranga Rao's letter No Pol 532 dt 19/11/30) related exclusively to the question of the Railway employees of this Govt. These employees, like all Govt. servants, are subject to certain Rules of conduct, which provide, inter alia that an association of Government servants belonging to a particular service or set of services shall not include among its members any persons not

actually in the public service.

It will thus be seen that while the former of the two communications under reference dealt with the general legal position as regards association for industrial purposes, the latter contained a reference to a rule of discipline ~~observed in Govt. establishments and~~ applicable to workers and civil servants ~~alike~~ in the employment of Govt. The Durbar trust that the Hon'ble the Resident will now be in a position to explain the matter clearly to the Govt. of India.

I have, etc.,

Chief Secretary to Govt.

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE,

General and Revenue Secretariat

Dated, Bangalore, 30th March 1931.

No. Pol 971

From

N. MADHAVA RAO, Esq., B. A., B L.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

To

CAPTAIN G. KIRKBRIDE,
Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. C. 8876/73 of 1930 dated 9th March 1931, I am directed to state that Mr. Rama Rao's letter No. Pol.1287 dated 31st May 1930, dealt with a general inquiry as to whether freedom of association existed in Mysore for industrial purposes. There being no law in Mysore restricting such association so long, of course, as its objects were lawful, the inquiry was answered in the affirmative. At the same time, it was pointed out that no legislation regarding Trade Unions had yet been introduced in Mysore, though it was under contemplation.

The second communication quoted by you (Mr.Ranga Rao's letter No. Pol. 532 dated 19th November 1930) related exclusively to the question of the Railway employees of this Government. These employees, like all Government servants, are subject to certain Rules of conduct, which provide, inter alia, that an association of Government servants belonging to a particular service or set of services shall not include among its members any persons not actually in the public service.

It will thus be seen that while the former of the two communications under reference dealt with the general legal position as regards association for industrial purposes, the latter contained a reference to a rule of discipline applicable

to

to workers and civil servants in the employment of Government.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Fair draft sgd)

Chief Secretary to Government.